



Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm

Written by Kate Douglas Wiggin

Published by sanmarco-sf

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Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm

By Kate Douglas Wiggin

Rebecca Of Sunnybrook Farm

Shirley Temple did a lot to make Rebecca famous when she won the world's heart in the movie we all remember. But the story is more than Temple, the film, or our memory of it: this is the tale of the little showgirl who, sent to the country to live with prim and proper relatives, is forbidden to do anything, well, showy. But Rebecca has other ideas, of course, and you know she'll win over the hearts and minds of everyone who'll see her show. . . . Certainly she won over Jack London. In 1904 he wrote to Wiggin herself: -May I thank you for Rebecca. . . ? I would have quested the wide world over to make her mine, only I was born too long ago and she was born but yesterday.... Why could she not have been my daughter? Why couldn't it have been I who bought the three hundred cakes of soap? Why, O, why?- And Mark Twain, too: he described Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm as -beautiful and warm and satisfying.-

What a charming, funny and beautiful read, a simple back to basics story , beautiful prose and a feel good read that suprised me and left me with a lovely warm feeling on completing this novel. My 13 years old self would have loved this Novel.

Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm is a classic American 1903 children's novel by Kate Douglas Wiggin that tells the story of Rebecca Rowena Randall and her Aunts Miranda and Jane Sawyer one stern and one kind, in the fictional village of Riverboro, Maine. Rebec What a charming, funny and beautiful read, a simple back to basics story , beautiful prose and a feel good read that suprised me and left me with a lovely warm feeling on completing this novel. My 13 years old self would have loved this Novel.

Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm is a classic American 1903 children's novel by Kate Douglas Wiggin that tells the story of Rebecca Rowena Randall and her Aunts Miranda and Jane Sawyer one stern and one kind, in the fictional village of Riverboro, Maine. Rebecca's joy for life inspires her aunts, but she faces many challenges in her young life.

I listened to this one on Audible and I really believe a narrator can make or break a good book and Lorna Raver does a superb job on this narration and brings out the best in this story. I just loved her different voices for the characters and she brought this book to life.

I think if you are going to read a story like this you need to take yourself back in time and immerse yourself in the story as these sort of books are written when life was slower and more straight forward. I loved the character of Rebecca, Mr and Mrs Cobb and even Miranda and Jane. I laughted out loud so many times and felt sorrow for Rebecca every time she got herself into a mess.

Having read Ann of Green Gables I felt this one was quite similar although I enjoyed this one more. I was suprised to learn that Ann of Green Gables was written 5 years after Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm.

Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm

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Rebecca Of Sunnybrook Farm 1917

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While reading this book I was surprized to find how similar it is to Anne of Green Gables. Well, Rebecca came first. Damn. In many ways it is the better book, but Anne is less preachy. This article compares the two books at length, and that comparison reveals much regarding the differences between American and Canadian culture. <http://canadianicon.org/table-of-cont...>

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While reading this book I was surprized to find how similar it is to Anne of Green Gables. Well, Rebecca came first. Damn. In many ways it is the better book, but Anne is less preachy. This article compares the two books at length, and that comparison reveals much regarding the differences between American and Canadian culture. <http://canadianicon.org/table-of-cont...>

"Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm opens with eleven-year-old Rebecca Rowena Randall's journey by stagecoach from her family's farm to her aunts' house in the Maine village of Riverboro. Rebecca's father has been dead for three years and her mother is unable to cope with the financial burden of raising seven children. Miranda and Jane Sawyer, her mother's spinster sisters, have offered to take the eldest child, a dull, sensible girl, into their home, but Mrs. Randall instead sends them Rebecca, "a thing of fire and spirit". Rebecca, who declares, "I haven't done anything but put babies to bed at night and take them up in the morning for years and years," thus finds her life abruptly changed (Wiggin 1917: 27, 12).

In Anne of Green Gables elderly Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert, sister and brother, of Avonlea, Prince Edward Island, send to an orphanage for a boy to help them on their farm. When Matthew goes to the train station in his buggy to pick up the boy, he finds that they have been sent instead eleven-year-old Anne Shirley, "full of spirit and vivacity," who has spent her childhood looking after babies in foster families (Montgomery 1968: 8).

The two girls present a similar appearance as they embark on their journeys to their new homes. Wiggin writes of Rebecca:

The buff calico was faded, but scrupulously clean and starched within an inch of its life; the head looked small to bear the weight of dark hair that hung in a thick braid to her waist. She wore an odd little vizored cap. Her face was without color and sharp outline (9-10).

Anne is described as:

garbed in a very short, very tight, very ugly dress of yellowish gray wincey. She wore a faded brown sailor hat and beneath the hat, extending down her back, were two braids of very thick decidedly red hair. Her face was small, white and thin "

Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm, 1917 film

Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm

Anne of Green Gables, book illustration

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What a weird little book. It was written 5 years before Anne of Green Gables and they are somewhat similar in theme, but Anne of Green Gables is about 10 times better. The writing here is inconsistent, dialogue is contrived and the characters lack depth. Not to mention Rebecca's "love interest," the 30-year-old Alan Ladd, who appears to fall for her at the age of 11 and pursues her in a way that gave me the creeps.

Rebecca Of Sunnybrook Farm First Edition

I found Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm similar in many ways to Anne of Green Gables. Rebecca's story was written 5 years earlier than Anne's, but it doesn't appear that Lucy Maud Montgomery was influenced by Wiggin's novel. Rebecca's is a inspiring story, not quite on the level of Anne's though. But it's a cute story with a feel good ending.

Note, Oct. 10. 2018: I just edited this review to embed a link to an online article I referred to here. (When I originally reviewed the book, I wasn't as adept at embedding links as I've become since then.)

My first encounter with this book was as a grade-school student back in the early 60s; I'd read Wiggins' short story collection spin-off, New Chronicles of Rebecca, first (not sure why, now!), and that whetted my appetite to get Rebecca's whole story. The 1995 (approximately) date is for the s Note, Oct. 10. 2018: I just edited this review to embed a link to an online article I referred to here. (When I originally reviewed the book, I wasn't as adept at embedding links as I've become since then.)

My first encounter with this book was as a grade-school student back in the early 60s; I'd read Wiggins' short story collection spin-off, New Chronicles of Rebecca, first (not sure why, now!), and that whetted my appetite to get Rebecca's whole story. The 1995 (approximately) date is for the second reading, when I shared it with my wife as an out-loud read; and she loved it as much as I do. Lately, I've been doing reviews of some of the classics I've read, and was inspired to pick this one by the recent excellent review of it by my Goodreads friend Bonnie (<http://www.goodreads.com/review/show/...>). That review focuses on Wiggin's enormous influence on her Canadian contemporary, Lucy Maud Montgomery, in the creation of the latter's series heroine Anne Shirley. I'd already recognized that the two young heroines shared many similar characteristics, and have often said that if they'd ever met, they'd have found "kindred spirits" in each other. Bonnie's review, however, has a link (reproduced here: <http://canadianicon.org/table-of-cont...>) to an illuminating online article at the site Canadian Icons, which establishes, through a close comparison/contrast of both author's novels, a clear demonstration of very significant literary influence. (That article focuses more on Montgomery's Anne, but includes much that's relevant to this book as well.) In this review, though, I want to focus more on Wiggin's work in its own right, which is how I first read it --at that time, I'd never heard of Anne of Green Gables.

This is basically the story of a smart, precocious, sensitive girl with a kind heart and a passionate appreciation for beauty in all its forms, growing from childhood to young adulthood in a prosaic Maine village under the not-exactly-sympathetic tutelage of two spinster aunts (though Aunt Jane proves more sympathetic than Aunt Miranda). The setting is probably 20 years or more earlier than the publication date, though that's just my impression; I don't recall an explicit date being given anywhere in the text. (Recommending the book to "fans of 19th-century literature," given the 1903 date, seems like an error; but I'm reckoning 1900-1914 as culturally part of the "long" 19th century.) Wiggin tells her story well, with an observant eye for the details of village life, an ear for New England dialect, and a primary concern for human relationships (family, friends, neighbors) and round characterization --the most

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fascinating character being Rebecca herself, though the other major and minor characters are lifelike as well. The author's very much a Realist, and a worthy peer of her contemporaries Jewett and Freeman. Of course, as a perhaps 10-year-old kid, I didn't know anything about that; I just knew that I was easily immersed in Rebecca's world. Nobody'd ever told me that, as a boy, I wasn't "supposed" to relate to girl characters as fellow human beings (and I wouldn't have been much inclined to slavishly listen to what I was or wasn't "supposed" to like if they had :-). I actually found Rebecca pretty easy to relate to; we were both intelligent, imaginative, and sensitive to things other than the mundane, surrounded by peers who usually weren't any of those things, and in the charge of adults who to a large degree didn't understand us.

This book was in my school's "library" (if we can call it that), and the BC library classifies it in the "Juvenile" section; but I didn't shelve it here as a children's book. That's not because I don't think kids could profitably read it --some would be prejudiced against it, and the setting of a non-technological, rural, Calvinist milieu would be too alien for the less imaginative to grasp; but the turn-of-the-(20th)-century diction wouldn't be difficult for intelligent kids, the story itself is universal, and teens who like historical fiction could relate to it easily enough, IMO. Rather, it's because I think calling it a "children's" book would wrongly mischaracterize it as too simplistic for adults, and it isn't; rather, it's one of those books with a child protagonist that nevertheless can speak to an adult perception and sensitivity. (Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn, and Anne of Green Gables are other titles that come to mind in the same way.) It's significant that, as the Goodreads description above notes, even back when it was first written, some of the most enthusiastic fans were adults (including Mark Twain and Jack London, not to mention Lucy Maud Montgomery). If what I've written here sounds more intriguing than off-putting, I'd encourage you to give it a try --you might find yourself in the current generation of adult fans! (Or, if you're in the YA group, YA fans. :-)) ...more

Rebecca Of Sunnybrook Farm Cast

Rebecca's Ten Life Enriching Lessons for Grownups:

I normally read children's books during Christmastime. Not only to catch up with my Reading Challenge (I am behind by 10 books as of this writing), but also, most of children's books have life lessons that can be good reminders for the coming year. New Year always means new beginning, new hope... Do you remember when you were still in school and after reading a story in class, the teacher asked you what was the lessons you learned from it? So, in Rebecca's Ten Life Enriching Lessons for Grownups:

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1) We all can rise from mediocrity. Rebecca is a plain-looking 10-y/o poor child who is being sent by her mother to live with her two stern spinster aunts so as to have a better prospect in life. Mediocre in looks, she also started as mediocre in school but she triumphs over mediocrity in the end.

2) Speak up. Filipinos are basically shy people especially in the presence of white westerners. I think this was due to the fact that our country has been under Spain (white people) for 300 years and the USA (another set of white people) for 30 years. So, we are born to be submissive and subservient. Our American counterparts in the office oftentimes comment that we are silent during meetings and shy to offer our views and suggestions. In this book, Rebecca may have come from a poor family but she wins the heart of the Riverboro (Maine) people because of her loquaciousness and witty remarks.

3) Children should be spared from the sins of their parents. At the start, Aunt Miranda hates Rebecca because she looks like her dead father ("All Randall, no Spencer") who the aunt did not like for her younger sister and Rebecca's mother, Auriela. Children are born faultless. They should not be punished from or judged according to whatever wrongs their parents did.

4) Don't underestimate the capacity of children to bear poverty, challenges and trials. We parents always worry about our children. We always think of them as helpless. Rebecca showed us that given so many problems at the same time: limited money to continue studying (and get brighter future) she also has to worry about taking care of Aunt Miranda and her injured mother back home, dead brother in the war and the unpaid home and farm mortgage.

5) Imagination can be boundless. Rebecca's main strength is her imagination that makes her question things or ways that we have been so used to that we accept them like blind men. I think this is by far,

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what I like most about her. However, I felt that this trait was not really given the attention that this deserved to make Rebecca's character truly unforgettable.

6) Children need adults to show them the way. Our kids (if you are a parent) or pupils (if you are teacher) are highly impressionable. Their whole beings are like dry sponge that are open and willing to absorb water. We have to be careful on what we show them. They look up at us like models.

7) Let your children develop friendships in school. When Jane becomes Rebecca's friend in school, both of them blossomed. They supported each other and if not because of that friendship, I don't think Rebecca would have surpassed all the trials and tribulations that came in her way.

8) Spontaneity can result to creativity. Sometimes we are too focused on structures (traditions, practices, policies, rules, etc) that they curtail our creativity.

9) Don't have too many kids if you are not rich. This seems too obvious and I admit that I am having a hard time completing my 10 lessons. However, if you really think about it, that time (turn of the century) and even now, or especially now, if you have 7 kids and you are a single parent, it should be very difficult to send them all to school or even to provide for their daily needs.

10) In the end, everything will turn out right. Rebecca shows to Aunt Miranda and to her mother that if we all strive to make things right, they will turn out right. At the beginning of the novel, her mother is worrying because of her decision to send Rebecca instead of Hanna to her sisters. But Rebecca makes a promise to her mother to be good to Aunt Miranda and Aunt Jane. The whole book is about fulfilling that promise as if saying to her mother that, in the end, everything will turn out right. It does.

Not as strikingly beautiful as Heidi or Pinocchio. Rebecca is half-Ugly Ducking, half-Cinderella. However, American children and young adults at the turn of the century were able to relate to her and this book became an instant bestseller when it first came out in 1903. (Source: Wiki).

This is a classic American children's book so I guess there is no really use to criticize. It is an endearing story that can inspire all plain-looking girls to reach for their dreams by using their other positive traits and not to dwelling on their physical appearance. ...more

If I were teaching a literature class, I would definitely use this book to compare the early American society that existed over 100 years ago to today's American society. I first read this book as a child in the early 1970s. At that time I enjoyed literature filled with wholesome views of life, family, and hope. A few months ago, the title of this book came up in a trivia game I was playing, and I thought I would love to reread the story to relive the happiness I felt while reading it as a child. If I were teaching a literature class, I would definitely use this book to compare the early American society that existed over 100 years ago to today's American society. I first read this book as a child in the early 1970s. At that time I enjoyed literature filled with wholesome views of life, family, and hope. A few months ago, the title of this book came up in a trivia game I was playing, and I thought I would love to reread the story to relive the

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happiness I felt while reading it as a child. Good ol' Amazon.com pulled through again, and I was able to order a gently-used edition. I settled to read the book, and as I read was amazed at the 21st century mentality that has somehow influenced me to be suspicious of strangers and odd behavior. Everything innocent that happens to Rebecca, from riding with an old man (- alone - in a wagon - through miles of unpopulated countryside -), to accepting gifts from a man over twice her age (a single man who seems to be quite taken with the young 12 year old Rebecca) to her friend (who claims she could happily live with Rebecca for all their lives and cook and clean for her while Rebecca pursues her interests) became wharped and twisted with the warnings and suspicions we now live with in today's world. How sad to realize that a culture where people lived by ethics and morals has been replaced by a culture that lives by suspicions and fear. I felt sad when I closed this book, realizing that my own innocence and willingness to trust and believe in the general good of people has been transformed into questioning the real motives of people. Sigh. Yes, this definitely is an excellent book to read if people want to compare and discuss the changes that have occurred in American society. The child in me still loves Rebecca and the rewards of hope that blessed her; Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm is a wonderful read for those who want to remember a more innocent time. ...more

Rebecca Of Sunnybrook Farm Reading Level

Rebecca Randall is the young girl at the center of this classic coming-of-age novel. Living on the idyllic Sunnybrook Farm with her six siblings and her widowed mother, she is sent at age nine to live with her two elderly aunts in Riverboro, Maine. In exchange for her help they will provide room and board, a suitable wardrobe and ensure she receives an education. Her mother hopes it will be "the making of Rebecca." The novel follows Rebecca through young adulthood.

What a delight this classic is! Rebecca Randall is the young girl at the center of this classic coming-of-age novel. Living on the idyllic Sunnybrook Farm with her six siblings and her widowed mother, she is sent at age nine to live with her two elderly aunts in Riverboro, Maine. In exchange for her help they will provide room and board, a suitable wardrobe and ensure she receives an education. Her mother hopes it will be "the making of Rebecca." The novel follows Rebecca through young adulthood.

What a delight this classic is! Of course, I had seen the Shirley Temple movie several times when I was a child, but never read the book. While the novel is very different from Temple's movie, Rebecca's irrepressible character is the same. First published in 1903, it is set primarily in the late 19th century.

From the first introduction, as she boards the stagecoach as the lone passenger, Rebecca charms and entertains. She is ever curious, constantly moving, always exploring, and chattering away. She makes friends easily, whether it be with the elderly coach driver, or the girls and boys in her school. She makes mistakes and gets into mischief (what child doesn't!), but she wins over even her irascible oldest aunt, Miranda.

I wish Wiggin had written a sequel; I sure would read more about Rebecca as a young woman. She's every bit as engaging and interesting as Anne Shirley (of Green Gables) who was brought to life by L.M. Montgomery some five years after Rebecca Randall debuted. ...more

From Wikipedia

Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm is a classic American 1903 children's novel by Kate Douglas Wiggin that tells the story of Rebecca Rowena Randall and her aunts, one stern and one kind, in the fictional village of Riverboro, Maine. Rebecca's joy for life inspires her aunts, but she faces many trials, gaining wisdom and understanding.

Wiggin wrote a sequel, *New Chronicles of Rebecca*. Eric Wiggin, a great-nephew of the author, wrote updated versions of several Rebecca books, including a co From Wikipedia

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of Riverboro, Maine. Rebecca's joy for life inspires her aunts, but she faces many trials, gaining wisdom and understanding.

Wiggin wrote a sequel, *New Chronicles of Rebecca*. Eric Wiggin, a great-nephew of the author, wrote updated versions of several Rebecca books, including a concluding story.

The story was adapted for the theatrical stage and filmed three times, once with Shirley Temple in the title role.

This is a beautifully told story of a strong feminine personality. I especially loved the language of the author, but also the poetry written by Rebecca.

Very heartwarming and full of hope. This story shows how change of outlook can come to even those who have a negative attitude toward life. Through Rebecca's influence, the stern aunt, Miranda was changed.

Characters: Rebecca and her family (she is one of 7 children), Aunt Miranda, Aunt Jane, Adam Ladd, and Emma Jane

5 stars ...more

Rebecca Of Sunnybrook Farm Shirley Temple

One of my favourite childhood stories & i enjoyed rereading it so much!

I loved this! There are striking similarities to Anne of Green Gables, although this was published 5 years earlier; and to Pollyanna, which was published 10 years after this. So although Rebecca isn't quite as well known, she came before Anne or Pollyanna! I recommend this to fans of either of those books or to anyone who wants to read a classic, wholesome story about an intelligent, imaginative young girl who makes the best of what life hands her.

I was a bit disappointed with the ending. Do we I loved this! There are striking similarities to Anne of Green Gables, although this was published 5 years earlier; and to Pollyanna, which was published 10 years after this. So although Rebecca isn't quite as well known, she came before Anne or Pollyanna! I recommend this to fans of either of those books or to anyone who wants to read a classic, wholesome story about an intelligent, imaginative young girl who makes the best of what life hands her.

I was a bit disappointed with the ending. Do we never get to know what ultimately happens to Rebecca? I see that there are a couple of sequels, but the reviews here on Goodreads make me think they probably aren't worth my time. Sad.

Another of Kate Douglas Wiggin's books, *The Birds' Christmas Carol*, was one of my childhood favorites. I believe I had an abridged copy of *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm* while growing up, but I don't think I ever read it because I didn't remember any of the details while reading this.

A favorite quote from the story, speaking of Rebecca's Aunt Miranda: "The soul grows into lovely habits as easily as into ugly ones, and the moment a life begins to blossom into beautiful words and deeds, that moment a new standard of conduct is established, and your eager neighbors look to you for a continuous manifestation of the good cheer, the sympathy, the ready wit, the comradeship, or the inspiration, you once showed yourself capable of. Bear figs for a season or two, and the world outside the orchard is very unwilling you should bear thistles."

This would have been a full 5 stars except for the ending. I'm giving it 4.5 stars.

Note: I listened to the audio version available at Librivox, which unfortunately had a mixture of readers. The quality was hit-or-miss depending on the reader. Some were quite good while others sent me to my Kindle to read so I wouldn't have to listen to them. ...more

Rebecca Of Sunnybrook Farm 1903

The book is overall a weaker version of Anne of Green Gables. It opens strongly and has several memorable episodes in it involving the young Rebecca. The areas with the pink parasol are particularly good and true to life. Some of Rebecca's classmates at school are also interesting, and several pieces of dialogue are hilarious.

But...

The book suffers from an awkward romantic sub-plot involving Rebecca and a man old enough to be her dad. He's nice in himself, but flatly too old for Rebecca. Rebecca The book is overall a weaker version of Anne of Green Gables. It opens strongly and has several memorable episodes in it involving the young Rebecca. The areas with the pink parasol are particularly good and true to life. Some of Rebecca's classmates at school are also interesting, and several pieces of dialogue are hilarious.

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The book suffers from an awkward romantic sub-plot involving Rebecca and a man old enough to be her dad. He's nice in himself, but flatly too old for Rebecca. Rebecca herself is an attractive heroine, but her supposed intellectual brilliance never seems to amount to much and Kate Douglas Wiggin tries too hard to convince us Rebecca is more deserving than most other women in the story. The presentation of Emma Jane and Hannah Randall--along with others--is not fair and reveals a certain spitefulness in the author. Aunt Miranda is an interesting character, but not as well explored as Marilla Cuthbert, and I personally find Miss Maxwell hard to like, though we're supposed to admire her. The only negative female character that I find truly successful is Minnie Smellie. :)

The ending trails off a bit. Kate Douglas Wiggin was better with children characters than with adults. If you want another Anne of Green Gables and don't mind if the ending is weak, you might enjoy this classic. ...more

Recommended by my friend Meredith after I explained by love obsession with Maud Hart Lovelace's Betsy-Tacy series. This was one of those books I was always vaguely aware of, but never quite got to reading.

There was definitely a bit of Betsy in Rebecca with her love of writing, otherwise their stories are quite different - Rebecca is sent to live with her two maiden aunts when there are just too many children and too little money at her widowed mother's home. Rebecca charms many in her new town

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There was definitely a bit of Betsy in Rebecca with her love of writing, otherwise their stories are quite different - Rebecca is sent to live with her two maiden aunts when there are just too many children and too little money at her widowed mother's home. Rebecca charms many in her new town and becomes quite the scholar. The story parallels many of the period, only since this is a stand-alone Rebecca grows up and is entering adulthood at the end of the book.

Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm

I thoroughly enjoyed the story, though I thought the ending was incredibly abrupt....and though you can guess what happens in Rebecca's later life, I would imagine that many readers clamored for a sequel.
...more

Rebecca Of Sunnybrook Farm Songs

During this first time reading Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm, I found it very difficult to enjoy it on its own merit and to give it my undivided attention. If you are a Canadian girl worth her salt - you will have grown up reading Anne of Green Gables, which holds an iconic status in Canada. If you then read Rebecca, which was published 5 years earlier than Anne of Green Gables, you will then be dumbfounded by the similarities. And so you can appreciate, that I read this book while constantly think

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L.M Montgomery clearly patterned Anne after Rebecca - and I hope that at some point she publicly acknowledged that - although I suppose that's very naive and idealistic of me. I know that I should tread very, very careful when saying anything objectionable about our revered L.M Montgomery - and no one can hold her in as high esteem as I do, so I won't say too much more on this topic, except to point out a wonderful article outlining the many similarities between Rebecca and Anne:

<http://canadianicon.org/table-of-cont...> .

Once I reconciled myself to the similarities, I realized that this is a book that is quite worthy of emulating!! I ADORED it! I was also able to see quite a few differences as well - Kate Douglas Wiggin seems to be more at ease with her faith and I loved the depth that this offered to Rebecca!

This is the second book I've read by KDW and both of them 5 star ratings. I wonder how difficult it will be to get my hands on more of her works? I predict it will be worth the effort! ...more

My copy of this book is the "Shirly Temple Edition." My mom gave it to her youngest sister in 1953, and then my aunt gave it to me in 1978.

Rebecca is a plucky heroine who goes to live with her maiden aunts. She is intelligent and imaginative, much to the chagrin of Aunt Miranda, who has definite ideas about children and their place in the world.

This is another of those books where the domestic details fascinate me. My favorite chapters were always the one about Rebecca and her pink dress, the horse. My copy of this book is the "Shirly Temple Edition." My mom gave it to her youngest sister in 1953, and then my aunt gave it to me in 1978.

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Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm

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Reread: January, 2012. I reread Rebecca (pub 1903) just after reading *Girl of the Limberlost* (1909) for the first time. While I found *Limberlost* too preachy and filled with purple prose, Rebecca stood up remarkably well. I think this is because Wiggin allowed Rebecca to be human and make mistakes, while Elnora of *Limberlost* is an unattainable (and frankly, unattractive in her prissiness) ideal.

Reread: June, 2015. I found an "updated" version of the book, plus a "sequel" which supposedly made the books relevant for a modern audience. Those versions were basically mouthpieces for the updater's take on Christianity. Anyhow, after that, I came back to the original to reread with an eye for how Wiggins treats religion. It's there, but more of a benign presence. ...more

Rebecca Of Sunnybrook Farm 1932

An engaging read, but Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm comes in a distant second compared to Anne of Green Gables. As I was reading, there were numerous occasions I encountered distinct similarities between the two characters. In each case I favored Anne over Rebecca.

One of the reasons I found myself preferring Anne is a result of her friendship with Diana vs. Rebecca's friendship with Emma Jane. When the Rebecca character became "bosom friends" with Emma Jane it wasn't out of any real wish to, but rather there weren't any other more appealing options. Wiggins seemed so in love with her character, that everyone else fell short. There was an obvious superiority. As a result I interpreted the character of Rebecca as condescending. She just isn't as loveable, or as fallible, as Anne.

To be fair, it's been several years since I've read Anne of Green Gables. I'm in the process of re-reading it so I can do a better comparison of the two books instead of going strictly from memory.

...more

Second reading - September 2016

First reading - June 2015

This has to be one of the most endearing girl classics that I have read. It is such a deft blend of humor, sentimentality and serious character study. Fans of Anne of Green Gables, Daddy Long Legs, Caddie Woodlawn, Understood Betsy, Pollyanna and Eight Cousins will find this to be a satisfying, ennobling and enriching read. I laughed out loud, pondered and cried.

Rebecca Of Sunnybrook Farm By Kate Douglas Wiggin

Just ok. My main problem is that Rebecca and some storylines are so similar to Anne of Green Gables and LM Montgomery did a much better job fleshing out the characters and story.

i found this book at a library sale and stupidly for the longest time i thought this was part of the anne of green gables series?! so i never looked into it because i figured i would get to it once i started the series but lo and behold, it's its own book, and it's not even by the same author as anne of green gables lmao
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so rebecca of sunnybrook farm is a standalone novel about a precocious little girl named rebecca who is sent to live with her spinster aunts in a small town in maine, because h i found this book at a library sale and stupidly for the longest time i thought this was part of the anne of green gables series?! so i never looked into it because i figured i would get to it once i started the series but lo and behold, it's its own book, and it's not even by the same author as anne of green gables lmao
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so rebecca of sunnybrook farm is a standalone novel about a precocious little girl named rebecca who is sent to live with her spinster aunts in a small town in maine, because her mother has so many kids and i guess needs to foist one off on someone else? lol
 also, i guess she thinks it's an opportunity for rebecca to see a new place and learn better manners etc etc

aunt jane is super nice, aunt miranda is kind of a mean old bitch. rebecca has a hard time when she first gets there because she can never seem to follow the many and strict rules of aunt miranda.

rebecca makes some friends at school, she even finds a friend in an older man and his wife, mr. & mrs. cobb, who love her like their own child (they lost their daughter at a very young age and so rebecca is kind of like the daughter they never got to see grow up ðŸ™ˆ)

she loves performing in front of people, reading "pieces" at school, helping others who are less fortunate, and wearing pretty dresses. she has a very adult-like way about her, and most people who meet her are stricken in some way by that and by her sharp, wise eyes.

as she grows older and wiser, she can't help but bewitch everyone in her presence, just by simply being herself.

she is adored by friends, family, teachers, neighbors and her kind benefactor "mr. aladdin."

normally such a "perfect" girl might annoy me a little but rebecca honestly didn't, just because she was so pure and good. she didn't have any airs about her or think she was better than anyone. she was just

Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm

good. and i really enjoyed this beautiful little story all about how she affected others and how others helped to change her life for the better as well. â• ¢ĳ•

and in the end, i didn't think aunt miranda was a 'mean old bitch.' i just felt really sorry for her. ðŸ~”

i love how the ending was a bit of an open one, and i enjoy imagining all the wonderful things that will happen to rebecca during her lifetime. this story felt so real to me and is very near to my heart.

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